



2027 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES

1-9-6 EXCEPTION: A coach may use an electronic device for one-way communication from the dugout to the pitcher and the catcher while the team is on defense.

Rationale: This change reflects the continued evolution of technology within the sport and provides coaches with an additional method to efficiently communicate defensive strategy and game management information.

2-46-3a: Once a fair batted ball has touched any fielder, including the pitcher, it is treated as a deflected ball rather than an untouched batted ball for purposes of determining interference and subsequent play responsibilities.

Rationale: This clarification promotes consistent rule application, reduces confusion for umpires, coaches, and players, and ensures that deflected batted balls are treated uniformly throughout NFHS Softball rules.

8-10-2: The requirement that the pitcher and catcher listed on the starting lineup card must face the first batter while on defense was removed.

Rationale: This change simplifies the administration of the courtesy runner rule and eliminates a provision that applied only during the transition between the top and bottom halves of the first inning.

10-4-2: Allows state associations to adopt uniform standards that best meet the needs of their membership and officiating programs.

Rationale: Provides flexibility to state associations to determine the umpire's uniform.

2027 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

2-57-3, 4-4, 5-1-1b, 5-2-1, 8-8 EXCEPTION, 10-1-1, 10-2-3i

2027 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Take or Simulate Taking a Signal from the Catcher
2. One-Way Electronic Communication
3. NFHS Authentication Mark